

Amend 01

0.1 milligram and about 30 milligrams per lamp.

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Claim 9 (Amended): A method for preventing the formation of leachable mercury compounds in mercury vapor discharge lamps comprising providing, in a mercury vapor discharge lamp structure, between about 0.1 milligram and about 30 milligrams of a silver salt, a gold salt or combination thereof.

Cancel Claims 5 and 13.

REMARKS

Of the sixteen claims submitted for examination in this application two of them, Claims 8 and 16, have been indicated to be allowable. These claims remain in the application. The remaining claims, Claims 1-7 and 9-15, stand rejected on formal and substantive grounds. Applicants have amended their claims and respectfully submit that all the claims currently in this application are patentable over the rejection of record.

Turning first to the formal grounds of rejection, Claims 1-7 and 9-15 stand rejected, under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, independent Claims 1 and 9 employ the term "an effective amount." That term is deemed, in the outstanding Official Action, to be a relative term which renders the claim indefinite.

Although applicants respectfully demur from this holding, applicants submitting that those skilled in the art would be aware of what is an effective amount, still, in a spirit of cooperation, applicants have amended their independent claims to recite a specific concentration range of silver salt, gold salt or combination thereof such that there is no indefiniteness associated with the concentration of this claimed component.